

**Notice of Exemption**

**To:**  
Office of Planning and Research  
*For U.S. Mail:*  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

**From:**  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Central Region  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710



*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Project Title:** Pipelines L-301A, L-301G, and L-301H Operation and Maintenance Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-080-04 Amendment 1

**Project Location:** The Amendment adds the work area for the L-301G Reducer Replacement (I-189D) approximately 2.15 miles northwest of the City of San Juan Bautista, located between State Route 156 and Rocks Road and up to a total of six anomaly digs along the L-301G pipeline. These locations will be determined by the In-Line Inspection (ILI) technology tool run that will assess 24.7 miles of L-301G between Permittee’s Moss Landing Station on Dolan Road in Moss Landing, and Permittee’s Hollister Station on Santa Ana Road in Hollister.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife previously issued Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-080-04, pursuant to Section 2081 subdivision (b) of the Fish and Game Code (see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.2) to Pacific Gas and Electric Company to incidentally take California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) which is listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish & G Code 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (b)(3)(G).

The Amendment extends the ITP’s expiration date to December 31, 2026, deletes work activities associated with L-301G RMSCC15-301G Locations A and B, adds the L-301G Reducer Replacement, adds L-301G Anomaly Dig work activities, increases impact acreage to 9.44 acres, increases the credit purchase requirement by an additional 7.2 credits to a total of 9.44 credits, corrects CDFW contact information, and updates figures associated with the ITP. The Amendment adds no above ground facilities and the length of work along the pipeline associated with the entire Pipelines L-301A, L-301G, and L-301H Operation and Maintenance Project is expected to be 3,326 feet or 0.63 mile.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Craig Geldard, Manager–Environmental Management Transmission Projects, 6111 Bollinger Canyon Road, Office 3220C, San Ramon, California 94583

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15282, subdivision (k); Public Resources Code Sec. 21080.21
- Categorical Exemption.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** See Attachment

**CDFW Contact Person:** Renée Robison (Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)), 559-243-4014, ext. 274

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/8/2021

Julie A. Vance  
Regional Manager, Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notice of Exemption Attachment

**Project Title:** Pipelines L-301A, L-301G, and L-301H Operation and Maintenance  
Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2018-080-04 Amendment No. 1

**Current Situation:** To comply with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 112-E, which incorporates the United States Department of Transportation regulations provided by Title 49, Part 192 (Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline) of the Code of Federal Regulation, Permittee is required to maintain, inspect, and repair their natural gas transmission infrastructure. In addition, Public Utilities Code (PUC) sections 961 and 963(b)(3) state that it is the “policy of the state that the commission and each gas corporation place safety of the public and gas corporation employees as the top priority.” Further, PUC section 961 mandates that gas operators must go beyond what is considered “adequate” to develop and implement gas safety plans that are “consistent with best practices of the gas industry.” On April 20, 2012, the CPUC amended the scope of the Pipeline Safety Rulemaking to include compliance with the requirements of PUC sections 961 and 963.4. The CPUC further directed each California natural gas corporation to develop and implement a plan for the safe and reliable operation of its gas pipeline facilities. The purpose of Permittee’s proposed action is inspection, maintenance, and upgrade activities along three transmission lines to maintain safety and reliability of its infrastructure.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Approval of this Project is subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Article 18 Statutory Exemption section 15282 (k) “The installation of new pipeline or maintenance, repair, restoration, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline as set forth in section 21080.21 of the Public Resources Code, as long as the project does not exceed one mile in length”; as well as Pub. Resources Code, section 21080.21, “This division does not apply to any project of less than one mile in length within a public street or highway or any other public right-of-way for the installation of a new pipeline or the maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, relocation, replacement, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline.” “Pipeline” includes subsurface facilities but does not include any surface facility related to the operation of the underground facility.” (Pub. Resources Code, §21080.21). This Project involves excavations to inspect, maintain, and upgrade is transmission infrastructure. The Amendment adds no above ground facilities, and the length of work along the pipeline associated with the entire Pipelines L-301A, L-301G, and L-301H Operation and Maintenance Project is expected to be 3,326 feet or 0.63 mile.